

In particular, I share in all of Minnesota's pride in 8th Grader Catherine Cojocar of Holy Spirit Catholic School in Rochester, Minnesota, who will be participating in the National Spelling Bee for the second year in a row.

I also wish to commend the winners of the Central Minnesota Regional Spelling Bee who competed amongst 56 students in grades 5 to 8 from 34 different school districts. These students earned a spot at the State Bee: Ali Fuller of Chisago Lakes, Christina Huling of Annandale, Matt Schultz of St. Michael-Albertville, and Peter Doyle of Rocori. The skill these young men and women showed is truly awe-inspiring. They are a real example for us all.

HONORING THE LONE STAR COLLEGE SYSTEM UNIVERSITY CENTER ON ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today very proud to honor and congratulate the Lone Star College System University Center in The Woodlands, Texas, on its 10th anniversary.

The University Center broke ground in June of 1996 under the theme of "common ground for the common good." Partner universities, which include: Prairie View A&M University, Sam Houston State University, Texas A&M University, Texas Southern University, University of Houston and University of Houston-Downtown, began offering courses in September of 1997, and facilities were opened in January of the next year. Since that time, the University Center has indeed honored the vision of providing multi-level quality higher education instruction to a diverse population of citizens from north Houston, north Harris and Montgomery counties.

Over the past decade, the Center has experienced phenomenal growth. Student enrollment and the number of courses offered has grown four-fold. In 1997, the Center served 374 students in 65 classes. Today, over 2,300 students participate in 255 classes. Fifty-two thousand students have been served in ten years with no signs that growth will stop.

This unique partnership between the six Texas universities and the five colleges of the Lone Star College System has created amazing educational opportunities for the students of the region. Through this partnership, students at the University Center can complete baccalaureate degrees, master's degrees and continuing professional studies in over 65 programs without having to drive long distances. Having such programs right in their own backyard is an opportunity that the enrollment numbers clearly tell us is just too good to pass up.

The University Center is not only an asset to our community now, but the sky is the limit for its future impact. By offering convenient access to top quality instructors and innovative teaching, the opportunity for students to achieve their higher education goals in my district has never been so strong.

I consistently hear from employers that University Center students take their outstanding

educations and make a mark in the workplace. Many careers have been started or enhanced through this unique educational resource. As the University Center moves beyond its first decade, the best is truly yet to come.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to represent the University Center in the U.S. House of Representatives, and I urge you to join me in congratulating the Lone Star College System—University Center on this momentous occasion.

RECOGNIZING THE OPENING OF THE TREATY ROOM AND THE CROSSROADS OF DESTINY EXHIBIT AT THE GARST MUSEUM IN GREENVILLE, OHIO

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. BOEHNER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the grand opening of the Treaty Room and the Crossroads of Destiny Exhibit at the Garst Museum in Greenville, Ohio

One of most significant historical moments in Darke County was the signing of the Treaty of Greene Ville, which ended forty years of conflict over the upper Ohio Valley and opened the door for western settlement, leading to Ohio's statehood. This exhibit tells the story of life on the frontier: war, resolution, loss, progress and the growth of a nation.

While Darke County is no longer the Western edge of the United States, its citizens retain the finest qualities of frontier settlers: generous hearts, a zeal for public service and the passionate patriotism that General Anthony Wayne, General William Henry Harrison, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark exhibited more than two centuries ago.

It is my pleasure to congratulate The Garst Museum, the Darke County Historical Society and the citizens of Darke County on the grand opening of this new exhibit.

CONGRATULATING ST. MARY OF VERNON ON THEIR 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 30th Anniversary of St. Mary of Vernon, a well-established church located in the 10th district of Illinois.

In 1978, Father John Finnegan went to Lake County to establish a new parish in the Vernon Hills area. The first Mass took place on August 15, 1978, in a rented space at Hawthorn Jr. High School. Three years later, in 1981, the church moved into their new Worship Center which doubled as a building for Mass as well as for social and community activities. In December of 2005, the church moved into a new church building, fulfilling their dream. Despite the acquisition, the congregation takes pride in the fact that it is the people inside the church's walls that make St. Mary of Vernon what it is.

The parishioners of St. Mary of Vernon are dedicated to the Catholic education for all

ages. Their goal is for all activities and gatherings to have a spiritual dimension and regular participation in these programs helps develop a community within the church.

Going beyond themselves, St. Mary of Vernon believes in serving the needs of their surrounding community. Through outreach programs, people feel welcome in the church at all times. To maximize their impact, they also partner up with other congregations and community efforts.

This year we pause to celebrate the church's 30th Anniversary and their impact on our community. I commend St. Mary's for their accomplishments over the years and know they will continue to do great things in the years to come.

IN HONOR OF GERRET AND TATIANA COPELAND

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Mr. and Mrs. Gerret and Tatiana Copeland for their momentous gift to Christiana Care Health System's Center for Heart and Vascular Health. The Copelands' gift will enable Christiana Care to purchase a Stereotaxis remote navigation system that can more effectively target problem areas in the heart while still preserving healthy tissue, thereby providing the people of Delaware with the best treatment available for a potentially fatal disorder.

Stereotaxis is used to treat Atrial Fibrillation, a common heart condition that occurs when the heart rhythm becomes irregular, possibly leading to blood clots and eventual stroke. The current procedure—which involves inserting a catheter through the artery, identifying the areas of the heart that trigger the irregular heartbeat, and destroying those areas—puts healthy tissue in the heart at risk, is time consuming, and has only a 50 percent success rate. The Stereotaxis equipment, which will be housed in a new surgical suite named for Gerret and Tatiana, uses computer technology to create three-dimensional images of the heart and veins, allowing the cardiologist to direct a magnetic catheter with greater precision and less chance of damaging the patient's heart. These features should increase procedure success rates to as high as 90 percent. In addition, the Stereotaxis procedure is shorter than the traditional procedure; thus, the patient should require less sedation, less post-surgery medication, and recover at a faster rate. This type of cutting-edge equipment is available in only 100 hospitals worldwide.

The Copelands are no strangers to philanthropy: they have been generously supporting various causes in Delaware for many years, most notably the arts. Their gift to Christiana Care, however, is very personal. In 2006, following a cardiac catheterization, Gerret underwent heart bypass surgery to treat blockage in six of his arteries. Due to the extraordinary skill of the dedicated team of doctors at Christiana Care, Gerret has since made a full recovery. He and Tatiana hope that their donation will help others benefit from the same exceptional care.

I thank and acknowledge Gerret and Tatiana Copeland for their commitment to aiding the fight against heart disease. Their gift grants Delaware residents access to the latest technology used to treat life-threatening heart problems, undeniably bettering countless lives and transforming cardiac care for the people of Delaware.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING JUSTIN MCCAULEY FOR WINNING THE OHIO DIVISION IV STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Justin McCauley showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, Justin McCauley was a supportive member of the team; and

Whereas, Justin McCauley always displayed dedication to the sport of basketball and the Tuscarawas County Rockets Special Olympics basketball team; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Justin McCauley on supporting the Tuscarawas County Rockets Special Olympics basketball team during their quest to win the Ohio Division IV State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship he has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 basketball season.

INTRODUCTION OF NCAA FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP EQUITY RESOLUTION

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, today I have joined with my colleagues Congressman SIMPSON of Idaho and Congressman WESTMORELAND of Georgia in introducing a resolution to end disparity in college sports that is an unintended consequence of the Bowl Championship Series (BCS). This resolution declares the BCS an illegal restraint on trade, and demands that the US Department of Justice take the proper actions to investigate and end the unfair BCS system. It also encourages the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) to establish a true football playoff system to determine the national collegiate football champion in the interest of parity and sportsmanship.

The BCS is fundamentally unfair. Non-BCS schools, those in conferences not automatically qualified for the BCS bowls, are at a disadvantage prior to the first kickoff of the season. Non-BCS schools must basically have perfect seasons, and must be the best of over 50 schools to even be considered to play in a BCS bowl, while schools that belong to conferences that are automatically-qualified for BCS bowls (BCS schools) must only be the best of 8–12 schools, depending on the con-

ference they compete in. Six of the ten schools that participate in the BCS bowls qualify by becoming the regular season champion of a BCS automatically-qualifying conference: the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC), Big 10, Big 11, Big East, Pacific–10, and the Southeastern Conference (SEC). The four others are determined based on rankings, conference standings, and in some cases, selected by bowl officials. There is also a rule prohibiting more than one non-BCS school from competing in a single year.

These unfair eligibility requirements produce effects that go far beyond restricting access to playing for the national championship. The BCS generates hundreds of millions of dollars of revenue annually, and this money is disproportionately awarded to BCS conferences. Of the more than \$217 million generated by the 2006–2007 post-season bowls, \$185 million, or 85 percent went to the BCS schools, which represent 66, or 55 percent of Division I schools. Money generated by the post-season games help schools cover costs for their athletic departments, facilities, equipment, recruitment, and other sports programs. Non-BCS schools must use their general funds to cover costs of their athletic departments, which takes funding from academic and administrative needs.

The lopsided distribution of BCS revenue results in two tiers within the NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision (formerly Division 1), those with access to the BCS, and those without. Those without are unable to change their situation as the money and prestige associated with the BCS makes it highly unlikely that a non-BCS school will be able to compete for the same recruits, coaches, sponsorships, national television exposure, and the revenue it generates. This disparity keeps them in the second-class status and must be changed.

Questions about the legality of the BCS have also arisen. Legal scholars have analyzed the anti-trust aspects of the BCS, and some have concluded that the BCS violates the Sherman Anti-Trust Act under the Rule of Reason test. This requires that the competitive benefits of the system outweigh the anti-competitive effects. However, the anti-competitive effects of the financial gain and recruiting advantage of the BCS schools can easily outweigh the pro-competitive benefits of arranging for the top two ranking BCS teams to play for the national championship.

Many have called for the end of or change to the BCS, and the current system is only the latest reincarnation. The NCAA has, on multiple occasions, studied and considered moving to a playoff to determine the national champion. Successful BCS school football coaches and presidents have called for a playoff system, as have presidents of non-BCS schools. Congress has held multiple hearings questioning the fairness of the BCS and states have introduced and passed legislation calling for changes to the system.

NCAA football is the only college team sport without a playoff determining the national champion. While the NCAA Basketball Championship's format will not transfer perfectly to college football, it is an ideal system. All Division I schools start the season with an equal chance of making it to the playoffs. The championship is decided on the court by the players and their talent, not rankings and their schedule before the tournament. The basketball championship also allows for a nearly annual

“Cinderella story,” an underrated team that defies expectations, upsets traditionally strong opponents and competes deep into the tournament. This year it was Davidson College, a member of the Southern Conference, which was seeded tenth in its region and made it to the Elite Eight, beating former champion Georgetown University, the University of Wisconsin and Gonzaga University along the way. This scenario is highly unlikely in the BCS system, as there is little chance for a non-BCS school to even be offered an invitation to play. Non-BCS schools, the University of Hawaii in 2008 and Boise State University in 2007 were undefeated going into the BCS and were not even given the opportunity to play for the national championship.

Something must be done to ensure that money and opportunity are evenly distributed among all college football programs. Congress should act in the interest of all the athletes, coaches, staff and supporters to guarantee parity and competition in college football. The current system leaves much to be desired and I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this resolution calling for the NCAA Division I national champion to be determined by a playoff.

BRITTANY PADGETT

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Brittany Padgett who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Brittany Padgett is a senior at Wheat Ridge High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Brittany Padgett is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Brittany Padgett for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her high school career to her college career and future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING FLORENCE CRITTENTON SERVICES ON THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL CRITTENTON FOUNDATION

HON. NANCY E. BOYDA

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I am pleased today to recognize Florence Crittenton Services in Topeka. Kansas, on the occasion of the 125th Anniversary of The National Crittenton Foundation.

Florence Crittenton Services in Topeka, one of the 22 Crittenton agencies nationwide, is